Listing and Amendment of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-7. Cancelled.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating a program signal, comprising the steps of:

encrypting the program signal using encryption information to produce an encrypted program signal;

dividing the encryption information into a plurality of encryption information portions;

communicating the encrypted program signal via a first communications channel, the encrypted program signal being transmitted via first transport packets, each first transport packet having a first identifier associated with the program signal; and

communicating the plurality of encryption information portions via a second communications channel that is independent of the first communications channel, the encryption information portions being transmitted via second transport packets, each second transport packet having a second identifier associated with the encryption information.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of communicating the plurality of encryption information portions comprises communicating the plurality of encryption information portions via a plurality of communications channels that are independent of the first communications channel.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of encryption information portions is transmitted over a respective unique one of the plurality of communications channels that is independent of the first communications channels.

Customer No. 24498
Attorney Docket No.: PU030061
Office Action Dated: 06/24/2009

11. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the program signal is representative of a television program, and the encryption information corresponds to an entitlement control message.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of communications channels comprise satellite data paths.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the program signal is representative of a television program, and the encryption information corresponds to an entitlement control message.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving and processing a program signal, comprising:

simultaneously receiving data via a plurality of communications channels, including receiving an encrypted program signal via a first communications channel, the encrypted program signal transmitted via first transport packets, each first transport packet having a first identifier associated with the program signal, and receiving a plurality of encryption information portions via a second communications channel that is independent of the first communications channel, the encrypted information portions transmitted via second transport packets, each second transport packet having a second identifier associated with encryption information;

assembling the plurality of encryption information portions to recover the encryption information; and

decrypting the encrypted program signal using the recovered encryption information to generate the program signal.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of receiving the plurality of encryption information portions comprises receiving the plurality of encryption information portions via a plurality of communications channels that are independent of the first communications channel.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein each one of plurality of encryption information portions is received via a respective unique communications channel of the plurality of communications channels.

17.   (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the program signal corresponds to a television program signal and the encryption information comprises an entitlement control message.

18.   (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein the program signal corresponds to a television program signal and the encryption information comprises an entitlement control message.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method of receiving a television program signal via a satellite path, comprising:

receiving a user command selecting a program associated with a first channel;

simultaneously tuning to a plurality of channels to receive data via the plurality of channels, including receiving an encrypted program signal associated with the selected program via the first channel, the encrypted program signal transmitted via first transport packets, each first transport packet having a first identifier associated with a program signal, and receiving a plurality of encryption information portions via a second channel that is independent of the first channel, the encryption information portions transmitted via second transport packets, each second transport packet having a second identifier associated with encryption information;

assembling the plurality of encryption information portions to recover the encryption information;

decrypting the encrypted program signal using the recovered encryption information to generate a the program signal;

processing the program signal to generate a display signal.

20.   (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of receiving the plurality of encryption information portions comprises receiving the plurality of encryption information portions via a plurality of channels that are independent of the first channel.

21.   (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein each one of plurality of encryption information portions is received via a respective unique channel of the plurality of channels.

Customer No. 24498
Attorney Docket No.: PU030061
Office Action Dated: 06/24/2009

22.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for simultaneously receiving data from a plurality of communications channels;

control means, coupled to the receiving means, for selecting channels received by the receiving means;

processing means, coupled to the receiving means, for processing data received via the plurality of communications channels;

user input means for receiving user commands including selection of a program associated with a first communications channel, wherein

the control means causes the receiving means to receive an encrypted program signals associated with the selected program via the first communications channel in response to a user command, the encrypted program signal transmitted via first transport packets, each first transport packet having a first identifier associated with a program signal, and receive a plurality of encryption information portions via a second communications channel that is independent of the first communications channel, the encryption information portions transmitted via second transport packets, each second transport packet having a second identifier associated with encryption information, the processing means assembling the encryption information portions to generate the encryption information and decrypting the encrypted program signal using the assembled encryption information.

23.   (Original) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the receiving means receives the plurality of encryption information portions via a plurality of communications channels that are independent of the first communications channel.

24.   (Original) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the receiving means receives each of the plurality of encryption information portions via a respective unique communications channels that is independent of the first communications channel.

25.   (Original) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the program comprises a television program and the encryption information comprises an entitlement control message.

Customer No. 24498
Attorney Docket No.: PU030061
Office Action Dated: 06/24/2009

26.   (Original) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the communications channels correspond to satellite transmission channels.